

STANDING STONE FARM, HOUSE
1950 Branch Road
Perkasie
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5590

HABS
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9-PERK;
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

STANDING STONE FARM

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- Location: 1950 Branch Road, Perkasie, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
- Significance: Example of a Bucks County stone farmhouse built in two sections and retaining numerous original features including the pent roof over the first story.
- Description: The house has a two-and-a-half story, five-bay-by-two-bay main block constructed of irregularly-coursed rubble stone (the rear is only three bays across with a doorway being the center bay). It has a gable roof, covered with slate, with overhanging eaves. There is a narrow boxed cornice with crown molding along a plain frieze board. There is a pent roof across the southeast front facade which covers the first story bays. It is supported by large scroll brackets and has a pediment to the center and the stone walls are white-washed underneath, as was typical in this region. The front doorway is recessed with paneled reveals that match the raised six-panel, cross-and-open-bible door. There is a four-light transom window above, and a wide surround with an architrave backband. The first story windows are nine-over-six-light double-hung sash and have paneled shutters with shutter stays (mounted on sill) and locking hardware. The second floor windows are six-over-six-light double-hung sash. The windows have a plain band surround with a molded backband (different from doorway). There are interior gable end chimneys, one to each side. There are dormers to the rear.
- To the southwest side is a one-and-a-half story, two-bay wide section, also of rubble stone. It is set back from the front elevation, flush with the rear. It has a high-pitched gable roof which extends in the front to form a pent-like overhang. Again, the walls underneath the pent are white-washed. The doorway has a raised six-panel door with a wide surround with a molded backband. The windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash, also with shutters and shutter hardware, and the same surround as the windows of the main block. At the side, there is one, four-over-two-light sash window in the gable end only. To the rear is a doorway with a pedimented hood supported by simple scroll brackets. There is a single dormer at the rear.
- The interior is one room deep with a center hall, with a one-room kitchen section with a room above it to the side. All rooms have exposed floor joists and summer beams, and wide plank flooring. The stairhall runs from front to back with doorways at either end. The open-string, two-run stair is along the northeast wall. It has a simple, almost crude, balustrade with a rounded handrail and squared, fluted newel posts and balusters. At the landing, there are winder stairs to the northeast, to the southwest are a few steps up to the second floor. There is chair rail in the stairhall (up and down) only, on the first floor. The doorways have a plain surround with a molded backband. The windows are recessed into the stone walls and have a simple molding--like that of the backband of the doors. In the parlor to the northeast, there is a fireplace at the northeast wall with an ornate Federal mantel with a vine pattern carved into the

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flanking pilasters. There are doorways, with dutch doors, to either side of the fireplace. The southwest dining room is open to a modern kitchen to the rear. It has the same interior features, with a small (candle?) cabinet to the southwest wall.

On the second floor, there is a bedroom to either side of the hall to the front of the house, with a room (now bath and closet) behind the east side room. The walls have been given a stucco treatment and there is chair rail. There is a fireplace--with fluted pilasters--in the larger, southwest bedroom. To the side of the fireplace is a built-in cabinet with a locking, raised-panel door. There is a finished (half-story) attic, accessible from a winder stairway in the hall.

The one-and-a-half story kitchen section has the same moldings and exposed beam ceilings (new flooring). There is a large cooking fireplace at the southwest wall. To the side of it is a closet and a doorway--two steps up--to the winder stairway. The doors are of random width planks. There is a candle cabinet to the rear wall. There is a finished room above it.

History:

No research was undertaken at the time of the survey. A plaque in the southwest gable end of the main block, added later, reads:

M K
Built 1815
M E & E E
Rebuilt 1945

According to the current owners, Marguerite and Ely Swisher, The MK stands for Michael Kramer, and the ME & EE for Maude and Elmer Erb.

Outbuildings:

There is a banked barn to the southwest of the house. It has a rubble stone foundation (or first story) with board-and-batten walls. There are horse stalls on the first floor with a large open second floor. It is of heavy timber framing with hewn beams with pegged joints. It has a side-gable roof with four ornamental lightening rods along the roof ridge.

There is also a small (new) board-and-batten garden shed, and a well and pump in front of the one-and-a-half story section of the house.

Historian:

Catherine C. Lavoie